

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 00-05

held

Friday, September 29, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. in H 769

Present: Dr. N. Esmail (Chair), Dr. M.O. Ahmad, Dr. A.K. Athienitis, Dr. J.W. Atwood, Dr. R. Bhat, Dr. T.D. Bui, Mr. M. Ciaramicoli, Dr. T. Fancott, Mr. R. Fernandez, Dr. R. Ganesan, Dr. W. Ghaly, Dr. J.C. Giguère, Dr. G. Gouw, Dr. F. Haghighat, Ms. L. Harris, Mr. K. Ibrahim, Dr. J. Jans, Dr. C. Lam, Dr. L. Landsberger, Prof. G. Martin, Dr. O. Moselhi, Ms. C. Paradisis, Prof. L. Quesnel, Dr. A. Ramamurthy, Mr. P. Regimbald, Dr. J. Svoboda, Dr. S. Tahar, Dr. C.W. Trueman, Dr. R. Zmeureanu, Ms. S. de Souza (Recording Secretary)

Observers: Prof. M. Silas, Ms. E. Xenos

Regrets: Mr. J. D'Silva, Dr. K. Khorasani,

Guests: Ms. L. Matteo, Ms. P. Burnside, Ms. R. Quinn

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion That the agenda be adopted (O. Moselhi, L. Quesnel)
00-05-01

Vote: Carried unanimously

2. Adoption of Minutes

Motion That the Minutes of Meeting 00-04 (May 12, 2000) be adopted
00-05-02 (R. Bhat, C. Lam)

Vote: Carried unanimously

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair remarked that a sign indicating the future site of the new Engineering building was recently erected. Construction is due to begin in late spring or early summer and is expected to take 18-24 months; the target date for completion of the new building being September 2003. The new building will cover an area of 20,500 square metres. The Faculty will also retain 8000 square metres of space in the Hall building.

4. Award for Graduate Mentoring (ECFC Doc. 2000-05-01)

Dr. Jans explained that this award has been approved by the School of Graduate Studies, its intent being to recognize graduate student mentoring. Input from the Faculty was presently being sought.

The Chair remarked that additional time was needed to review the document. It will be an item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Faculty Council.

5. **Strategic Research Plan (ECFC Doc. 2000-05-03)**

The Canada Research Chair (CRC) program, introduced by the Federal Government, has established 2000 Research Chairs in Canadian universities. One half of such Chairs will be called Tier I (at the level of mature, full professors who are at the peak of their career) and the second half will be Tier II (recent associate professors, on the way to being Tier I). The 2000 chairs were apportioned to Canadian universities based on average funding from agencies such as NSERC, NRC and SSHRC. The project has been motivated primarily by the drive to classify universities as research universities and undergraduate universities. Concordia has been awarded a total of 21 chairs: 13 NSERC chairs, 2 NRC and 6 SSHRC. In Concordia, our Faculty has received 8 chairs.

As a part of the program, a Strategic Research Plan had to be submitted by September 1. One aspect of the program is whether the CRC should be open to internal and external candidates or only external candidates. As another Montreal university was offering its CRCs only to external candidates, Concordia's Senior Administration concluded that it was in the best interest of Concordia to follow the path set out by the other university. However, Concordia with its own internal resources, will establish a new set of chairs, identical in conditions/benefits to the CRC but called Concordia Research Chairs. The best candidates will be selected through a process set up by the Faculty but will be subject to review. Thus, the Faculty will establish an additional 9 research chairs bringing the total to 17 chairs. Also, 3 industrial chairs are being negotiated: 2 in Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering and 1 in Mechanical Engineering. Therefore, through the Strategic Research Plan aimed at pushing research, we envisage having 20 chairs: 8 CRCs, 9 Concordia Research Chairs and 3 industrial chairs.

The major research thrusts will be in the following areas:

1. Telecommunications and Computer Engineering
2. Computer Science and Software Engineering
3. Materials, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
4. Building, Environmental and Construction Engineering

Through the CFI infrastructure grant the Faculty has acquired support for the Interdisciplinary Research Facility for applications in Information Technologies (CFI-IRF). The Plan envisages establishing 2 institutes in the Faculty, namely the Concordia Institute of Information Systems Engineering, the second institute in the area of aerospace design and innovation is under negotiation.

Document ECFC 2000-05-03 is to be discussed at the department level and will then be brought back to Council for further discussion, following input from the departments.

6. **Graduate Curriculum Changes – BCE (ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02) & ECFC Doc.2000-05-02 (Section 2)**

Dr. Moselhi summarized the graduate curriculum changes in Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Motion **That the minor course changes in Building Engineering, under Section B1,**

- 00-05-03** in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02, be approved (O. Moselhi, R. Zmeureanu)
- Vote: Carried unanimously
- Motion** **00-05-04** **That the minor course changes in Civil Engineering, under Section C1, in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02, be approved (O. Moselhi, F. Haghighat)**
- Vote: Carried unanimously
- Motion** **00-05-05** **That the course deletions in Building Engineering, under Section B2, in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 and in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 (Section 2) be approved (O. Moselhi, R. Zmeureanu)**
- Vote: Carried unanimously
- Motion** **00-05-06** **That the course deletions in Civil Engineering, under Section C2, in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 and in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 (Section 2) be approved (O. Moselhi, F. Haghighat)**
- Vote: Carried unanimously
- Motion** **00-05-07** **That the list of new courses in Building Engineering, under Section B3, in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 and in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 (Section 2) be approved (O. Moselhi, R. Zmeureanu)**
- Vote: Carried unanimously
- Motion** **00-05-08** **That the list of new courses in Civil Engineering, under Section C3, in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 and in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 (Section 2) be approved (O. Moselhi, F. Haghighat)**
- Vote: Carried unanimously
- Motion** **00-05-09** **That the 2 new streams in the Graduate Certificate Program, under Section B4, in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 and in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 (Section 2) be approved (O. Moselhi, R. Zmeureanu)**
- Vote: Carried unanimously
- Motion** **00-05-10** **That the 2 new streams in the Graduate Certificate Program in Environmental Engineering , under Section C4, in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 and in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 (Section 2) be approved (O. Moselhi, F. Haghighat)**
- Vote: Carried unanimously
- Motion** **00-05-11** **That the restructuring of the M.Eng. programs, under Sections B5 and C5, in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 and in ECFC Doc. 2000-05-02 (Section 2) be approved (O. Moselhi, F. Haghighat)**

The Department Chair explained that the M.Eng. programs were being restructured to provide students with more focused concentrations. However, in the light of transitions

being carried out to the M.Eng. program in other departments as well, it was suggested to withhold the entire document until the December deadline.

**Motion
00-05-12**

**That Motion 00-05-10 be tabled
(J.C. Giguere, G. Martin)**

Vote: 10 ayes, 2 nays

7.

**Election of Faculty Representative on the Advisory Search Committee
for the Chair for the Department of Computer Science**

One nomination was received.

**Motion
00-05-13**

**That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science approve
the appointment of Dr. Sofiene Tahar as the Faculty representative on the
Advisory Search Committee for the Chair of the Department of Computer
Science (J.C. Giguere, O. Moselhi)**

Vote: Carried unanimously

Approval of Membership – Faculty Election Committee

One nomination was received.

**That Dr. G. Vatistas be approved as an alternate member of the Faculty Elections
Committee for a period of two years, June 2000 – May 2002 (J.C. Giguere, R. Bhat)**

Vote: Carried unanimously

**That the following composition of the Faculty Elections Committee, for a period of
two years (June 2000-May 2002), be approved**

Regular Members: Dr. A.M. Hanna
Dr. J.W. Atwood
Dr. M. Zaheeruddin

Alternate Members: Dr. S. Tahar
Dr. G. Vatistas

(O. Moselhi, L. Quesnel)

Vote: Carried unanimously

CLOSED SESSION

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